

SENATE—Tuesday, May 1, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Great is Your faithfulness, O God our Father; morning by morning new mercies we see. All we have needed Your hand has provided. Great is Your faithfulness that sets us free. We echo the praise articulated so beautifully by Jeremiah, "Through the Lord's mercies, we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Thank You, Father, that You desire to reproduce Your faithfulness in us. Make us people distinguished for our faithfulness to You, our families, our Nation, our calling to serve You in the Senate. Today, on what has been designated as Loyalty Day, may our love for You be expressed in loyalty. We know that loyalty is an act of the will; it is a quality we choose to express. We affirm our loyalty to Your commandments and our Constitution. May loyalty to one another within the Senate family exemplify to America that people with different political persuasions can be loyal to each other. You are our loyal Lord and our strengthening Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 1, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CHAFEE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 9:30 cloture vote be postponed to occur at 11 a.m. today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NICKLES. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate begin a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with the time equally divided in the usual form.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. NICKLES. For the information of all Senators, the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the education bill is now scheduled to occur at 11 a.m. However, it is possible that vote may be vitiated so substantive debate can begin this morning. Senators will be notified as to the status of that vote as soon as possible. Amendments to the bill are expected to be offered during today's session, and therefore further votes are anticipated in today's session.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

LEI DAY IN HAWAII

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, May 1 is a special day in many cultures. The Celts and Saxons and others in pre-Christian Europe celebrated the first planting and the beauty of spring. These agrarian celebrations continued down through the centuries and remain today. In much of Europe, May 1 is also a labor holiday, honoring the labor workers. The first of May, however, has a unique and very special significance to the people of Hawaii. May Day is Lei Day in Hawaii. Lei Day is a non-political and nonpartisan celebration.

Indeed, its sole purpose is to engage in random acts of kindness and sharing, and to celebrate the Aloha spirit, that intangible, but palpable, essence which is best exemplified by the hospitality and inclusiveness exhibited by the Native Hawaiians—Hawaii's indigenous peoples—to all people of goodwill.

A lei is a garland of flowers joined together in a manner which can be worn. There are many different styles of lei made of numerous types of flowers. The type of flower used determines the manner in which the lei is woven. While Hawaii and the Native Hawaiian culture are properly acknowledged for giving the lei such prominence, and the lei is a sensory manifestation of the Aloha spirit, other Pacific island peoples—the Polynesians and Micronesians for example—and Southeast Asians use floral garlands to greet and honor guests.

A lei symbolizes love, support, and friendship. Longstanding tradition in Hawaii has made May 1 a special day for the people of Hawaii. The Territory of Hawaii observed its first "May Day is Lei Day" celebration on May 1, 1928. There were many festivities and competitions that exhibited lei made of flowers from the different islands. In addition, many schools held elaborate programs throughout the islands.

This tradition has continued for many years in Hawaii. In 1929, Governor Farrington signed a Lei Day proclamation urging the citizens of Hawaii to "observe the day and honor the traditions of Hawaii-nei by wearing and displaying lei." Many schools celebrate this day by holding pageants where students honor the many cultures and traditions of Hawaii. Students commonly elect a May Day court, commemorating Hawaii's royal heritage, that consists of two representatives who wear flowers and colored Aloha attire representative and customary for each of the eight major islands of Hawaii. In addition, many communities hold events in honor of Lei Day, including lei making contests and concerts.

This year, the Hawaii State Legislature passed a bill to officially recognize May 1 as "Lei Day in Hawaii." The bill was recently signed into law by Gov. Benjamin Cayetano.

Mr. President, in an effort to share the Aloha spirit across America and around the world, the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau will be sharing lei in seventeen cities today. Approximately 31,000 lei will be shared in 17 cities around the world, including here in Washington, DC, New York, Chicago, Vancouver, Seoul, Sydney, Beijing, and